



MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

Hotline - 901-664-9246



VOL. 5, NO. 3

ROYAL RUMBLE EDITION

JAN. 20-26

At Royal Rumble

THE 60-MINUTE MAN WINS WWF TITLE

ALBANY NY---In one of the longest endurance tests of his storied career, Ric Flair outlasted 29 challengers and a brutal pounding Sunday to win the ROYAL RUMBLE and the World Wrestling Federation heavyweight championship in 62:02 of the stepladder battle royal finals. Flair becomes the only man ever to hold the NWA, WCW and WWF heavyweight belts.

Flair's triumph also broke the endurance record of Rick Martel in the RUMBLE, set last year. Flair lasted 60:02, entering the event third--after the opening draw of Davey Boy Smith and Ted DiBiase.

The victory also marks only the second time WWF owner Vince McMahon has ended a pay-per-view special with a heel winning (Andre the Giant's capturing the finale of the 1987 SURVIVOR SERIES was the only other). A post-match brouhaha resulted in the apparent heel turn of Sid Justice, who tossed out four-time WWF champion Hulk Hogan at 61:33. An angry Hogan pulled Justice over the top from outside at 62:02 to give Flair the title. Flair and Justice snarled at each other and were separated by a crowd of WWF road agents.

The final four of Flair, Hogan (who entered 26th at the 49:52 mark), Justice (29th at 56:00) and Randy Savage (21st at 38:25) saw Savage eliminated at 61:03.

Flair took perhaps the most physical assault of his career during the hour, much of it from former NWA foes. One-time tag partner Greg Valentine clamped a figure-4 on Flair at the 21:20 mark. He endured brawling from both new WWF Intercontinental champ Roddy Piper and another ex-NWA world champion, Kerry Von Erich. He took a military press slam from Davey Boy Smith, a superkick from Sean Michaels, a suplex and flying forearm from Tito Santana, a powerslam from Barbarian and a suplex on the floor, along with the foot-in-face from Hogan. But he scored the elimination on Big Bossman at 25:57.

Piper, who had earlier won the Intercontinental belt, posted the second-longest tenure at 34:15. He entered 15th and went out, along with Martel, at the 60:40 mark, with a shove from Justice. DiBiase (1:20), who once lasted longer than 40 minutes in a RUMBLE, and Nikolai Volkoff (1:30) were in the shortest.

In a post-match jab at his former employers, Flair said, "This is the greatest moment of my life. This is the only title in the world that makes you king of the wrestling world." After 17 years in NWA or WCW-affiliated promotions, Flair jumped to the WWF in September after failing to reach agreement on a contract extension with Turner Broadcasting. He has been heralded as the "real world champion," with his former WCW title belt the focus of a lawsuit by TBS. Flair's win at 43 marks the highest elevation of any former NWA world champion in the post-1984 WWF ranks but Flair did not score the elimination on Hogan, which almost certainly leads to a Flair-Hogan matchup at WRESTLEMANIA VIII, where Hogan is expected to win.

(More RUMBLE on Page 2)

Piper Takes I-C Belt

ALBANY NY---After a bizarre series of weekend events, Roddy Piper applied the sleeper to The Mountie in 5:20 here Sunday to win the WWF Intercontinental championship.

The Mountie's I-C reign of two days was the shortest in WWF history. He had won the belt Friday night from Bret Hart in Springfield MA and Piper had been inserted in weekend WWF TV shows as top challenger.

Piper shrouded Mountie before the bell with his kilt and went right to brawling. He scored a two-count with a bulldog at 1:22 but missed a dropkick at 2:30.

The 40-year-old Piper rallied for a near-fall sunset flip at 3:55 after being tossed out. After atomic-dropping Mountie over the top, the champion propelled himself back inside but collided with manager Jimmy Hart. Piper then applied the sleeper to Mountie for his first-ever title since joining the WWF in 1984.

MATCH RATING: RESTHOLD-PLUS....you knew it wouldn't last long because of the buildup of Piper as one who could end the day with both belts.

L.O.D. Counted Out, Not Down

ALBANY NY---The Legion of Doom, after swapping some early offensive moves for a heavy sales job in the middle, retained the WWF world tag title here Sunday but only after being counted out against the Natural Disasters in 9:25.

The end came after all four brawled on the outside after Hawk clotheslined Typhoon from the apron. But Typhoon (Fred Ottman) sneaked back inside ahead of the 10-count before Animal after Earthquake (John Tenta) clamped a bearhug on Hawk to keep him from reaching the ring.

Hawk scored an early shoulderblock on Tenta but missed a dropkick before Tenta missed one of his own. Animal and Tenta then traded clotheslines but Tenta fell on Animal during an attempted body slam. Typhoon then scored three backbreakers to slow Hawk.

After the finish, the L.O.D. went into a rage and Tenta was bashed with a chair. **MATCH RATING: RESTHOLD**...better than these four usually can do but it's time Tenta did a job.

OTHER BOUTS

BEVERLY BROTHERS D. BUSH-WHACKERS (14:58): Already a candidate for worst bout of the year, this one was strictly for comedy and much of it was weak.

Neither team locked up for 2:40, after which cameras caught Bushwhackers' manager Jameson blowing his nose on a dirty sock. It was that kind of match.

After 12 minutes of almost inconsequential action, the Genius (Lanny Poffo) slugged Jameson on the outside. Bo won it with a double axhandle on Butch Miller off the top at 14:58. But the 'Whackers tossed Poffo back in and Jameson kicked him in the shin and back. **MATCH RATING: BOMB!**

NEW FOUNDATION D. ORIENT EXPRESS (17:18): A good opener. Owen Hart scored with a limited number of his flying moves and did a strong job of selling in the latter third of the match.

Hart did a spin reversal from the ringrope on Kato at 2:40. He scored a double cross body block on the O Ex at 7:35 but sold seven near-falls after being hit with a cane by Mr. Fuji at 9:10.

Owen rallied with a double dropkick at 16:15 and tagged Jim Neidhart, who went right to the offense. Hart then cross body blocked Kato through the ropes before scoring with the rocket launcher on Pat Tanaka for the fall at 17:18.

MATCH RATING: DRAW-PLUS....still not quite the speed of Owen's Canadian classics.

Royal Rumbings

RUMBLE ENTRANCES

1. Davey Boy Smith 2. Ted DiBiase 3. Ric Flair 4. Jerry Saggs 5. Haku 6. Sean Michaels 7. Tito Santana 8. Barbarian 9. Kerry Von Erich 10. Repo Man 11. Greg Valentine 12. Nikolai Volkoff 13. Big Bossman 14. Hercules 15. Roddy Piper 16. Jake Roberts 17. Jim Duggan 18. I.R. Schyster 19. Jimmy Snuka 20. Undertaker 21. Randy Savage 22. Berzerker 23. Virgil 24. Col. Mustafa 25. Rick Martel 26. Hulk Hogan 27. Skinner 28. Sgt. Slaughter 29. Sid Justice 30. Warlord.

ELIMINATIONS

1. DiBiase (1:20) 2. Saggs (5:24) 3. Haku (15:18) 4. Volkoff (21:30) 5. Valentine (22:28) 6. Repo Man (22:58) 7. Smith (23:13) 8. Von Erich (23:25) 9. Michaels (23:50) 10. Santana (24:49) 11. Barbarian (25:13) 12. Hercules (25:21) 13. Bossman (25:57) 14. Snuka (37:12) 15. Roberts (39:30) 16. Mustafa (48:50) 17. Undertaker (50:00) 18. Berzerker (50:08) 19. Virgil/Duggan (51:30) 21. Skinner (54:17) 22. Slaughter (58:55) 23. I.R.S. (59:50) 24. Warlord (60:15) 25. Piper/Martel (60:40) 27. Savage (61:03) 28. Hogan (61:33) 29. Justice (62:02). **WINNER: FLAIR.**

ALBANY AGITATIONS: Flair and Piper were tremendous in the RUMBLE but the overall camera work was not as sharp on this one as in the past two, when only one elimination was missed. The departures of Haku, Tito Santana and Sean Michaels were not even captured. But some high spots were well-shot (Hogan's suplex of Flair on floor and Valentine's figure-4 on Flair) and watching Flair take that pounding was bone-wearying....Thank goodness for the post-match interview. We were left with this picture of Hogan and Justice growling at each other and mass confusion in the ring and if Flair had been allowed to just drift away, it would have been a slap....Gorilla Monsoon made a horrible blopper at the 47-minute mark, referring to Flair as "Rick Martel"....Hart was not punished for his negotiations with WCW (see page 4). Reportedly, the company was upset with Bret over remarks written in a column which bears his name in THE CALGARY SUN....The Fox special for Feb. 8 will be taped in either Amarillo or Lubbock and could include Hogan/Savage vs. Roberts/Undertaker and Flair vs. Piper. One would have to believe a Hogan/Justice vs. Flair/Undertaker bout would not be a choice now....The TV card had not been decided as of Friday. The tapings are next Monday and Tuesday....First half of the show appeared to drag after the Piper match. That Bushwhackers-Beverly Bros. bomb should have lasted about a third as long.

MATWATCH 25 SCALE

CROWD ENTHUSIASM	4.2
ANNOUNCING	3.0
QUALITY OF MATCHES	2.2
PRODUCTION	4.0
OVERALL EXCELLENCE	3.4

TOTAL RATING: 16.8

BACK ISSUE OFFER

To answer so many requests for back issues, we will offer a selection of MATWATCH CLASSICS, key back issues in acceptable enough condition to reprint (some were damaged in our move last year).

Back issues are available for \$2 each or \$8 for any five. For a complete listing, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: MATWATCH CLASSICS, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

Please send no money until your order form arrives.

WCW Vaults Back To 4th Quarter Top

Displaying its best performance in more than a year, TBS' **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING** coasted to victory in the 1991 fourth quarter Nielsen cable ratings race.

Reversing a trend which saw its summer numbers fall 8% below year-ago figures, WCW roared to a 2.9 average, topping a 3 rating five times during the fall. The rating was up 4% from the 2.8 of October-December 1990.

Three of the five weekly cable series posted increases over year-ago ratings, offsetting what was predominantly a downward trend over the previous 39 weeks. WCW's **POWER HOUR** and USA Network's **ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING** both showed increases of one-tenth of a rating point while **WCW MAIN EVENT** and the Monday night **PRIME TIME WRESTLING** both declined.

WCW's growth came despite the loss of Ric Flair to the WWF. Part of the increase can be traced to not having college football competition head-to-head on ESPN 11 of the 13 weeks (though ABC offered regional games most of those weekends). The early fall launch of a storyline with Sting and Rick Rude and the ensuing controversy over Paul E. Dangerously's status with the company revived interest in what had been an almost-dormant promotion for the year.

ALL-AMERICAN was up to a 2.5 from last year's 2.4 in the fall, despite a number of strong early NFL games opposite. **POWER HOUR**, despite being primarily formatted as replays of past syndicated matches, jumped to a 1.8 average and finished with a weekly mark of 1.01 million homes, the first quarter PH has drawn more than a million homes weekly.

PRIME TIME WRESTLING posted the most alarming decline. Despite a repackaged live audience-sketch format, the show dropped from a 2.5 in 1990 to 2.4 this fall. The slide was enough to force Vince McMahon to restructure the program into a **McLAUGHLIN GROUP/CROSSFIRE** debate clone in November. The show appeared to show signs of resurging in December, posting a 2.7 average, after falling as low as a 1.9 in early November 1.5 in October and slipping to a 2.2 four times.

WCW MAIN EVENT also took it on the chin from stronger late-afternoon NFL contests. WME's average fell 8% from 2.5 to 2.3. WME rallied to hit a 3 rating in early December but sank three weeks later to a 1.8, a low mark it also hit in early October.

THE FOURTH QUARTER		
	1991	1990
WCW World Championship (TBS)	2.9/5.7	2.8/5.9
WWF All-Am. (USA)	2.5/6.2	2.4/6.4
WWF Prime Time (USA)	2.4/3.6	2.5/3.9
WCW Main Event (TBS)	2.3/4.2	2.5/4.6
WCW Power Hour (TBS)	1.8/7.4	1.7/6.3

Overall, every program---despite the three increases in ratings---dropped in share over 1990 levels, except for the **POWER HOUR**. The 1990 share average in the above figure for PH is based on ten Saturday morning airings last year. Several factors are possible for the share dips: 1) larger total number of homes watching television in the time periods than a year ago; 2) more and stronger overall cable competition, which fractionalizes share percentages; 3) a continued peaking of wrestling interest.

POWER HOUR matched or topped a 2 rating five times during the fall, including a record (for Saturday) 2.2 in mid-November. The series topped one million total homes viewing seven of the 13 weeks during the quarter.

Compared to third quarter summer levels, which offers a lower total number of viewers and is typically stronger for WWF series, **PRIME TIME** fell 11% in rating and **MAIN EVENT** stayed the same. **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP** increased 21%, **POWER HOUR** 28% and **ALL-AMERICAN** 7%.

ANALYSIS

Even though **PRIME TIME** and **MAIN EVENT** ratings dropped, this was a fairly positive quarter for wrestling audience levels. To have re-established **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING** as a flagship show with as dominant a lead as it had is indicative the loss of Flair was not catastrophic for Turner Broadcasting and---to a degree---may have spurred new interest in fresh storylines.

ALL-AMERICAN, with a much more articulate Curt Hennig as co-host, has shown resilience against strong early NFL competition to post a ratings increase. And, like **ALL-AM** as a repeat show, **POWER HOUR**'s performance is particularly noteworthy, considering the problems TBS has had building an audience for that series between two strong westerns and **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER**.

Things to watch for in the first quarter of 1992: **PRIME TIME**, though it takes at least a month to draw a trend, is out to a slight one-tenth of a point lead over **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**. The question mark for PTW is whether its new argumentative format will hold interest over an extended period, if a stronger focus on Flair as WWF champion building to Wrestlemania draws more viewers and if (a very real possibility) its fall erosion is attributable to the broad demographic strength of CBS' strong comedies and **NORTHERN EXPOSURE** as much as to Monday Night Football. Some ratings analysts are indicating male viewers are increasingly joining their female counterparts for the Monday lineup.

Also a key is the quality of matches TBS places on Saturday afternoon during the February sweeps. The program is in position to either hold its own or even average a 3 rating during winter, with a hike in viewing always the case during cold-weather months. Next week's averages will likely be high for WCW with much of the South forced inside because of snow.

The challenge for TBS with **MAIN EVENT** will be to somehow attempt to distinguish it as a different type of series. Inserting Tony Schiavone as host is a step but the format still needs tinkering.



Ventura Signs 3-Event Deal

ATLANTA----Jesse (The Body) Ventura's appearance as co-host of TBS' *CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS* Tuesday night in Topeka KS was the first of a three-event deal with Turner Broadcasting and Turner Home Entertainment.

Ventura, former color commentator for WWF *SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING* and current co-host of Genesis Entertainment's *GRUDGE MATCH*, will join Jim Ross for color on *SUPERBRAWL II* and do the cable informercial for the Feb. 29 pay-per-view.

Though WCW would not confirm, the package is said to be for \$50,000 for Ventura and a key is the informercial. "Jesse has strong identification with cable operators," said a source close to TBS, "and we think he's important to selling the pay-per-view."

Bret Hart Deal Fizzles With WCW

ATLANTA----It was a case of now you have him, now you don't.

World Championship Wrestling, Inc., had reached agreement with former WWF Intercontinental champion Bret Hart to join the TBS promotion but the deal was aborted early last week.

Hart's jumping was canceled when his attorney advised him a window of release from his Titan Sports contract had expired.

Goodhart Goes Out of Business

PHILADELPHIA----Independent promoter Joel Goodhart's scheduled Buddy Rogers-Buddy Landell bout was canceled last week after Goodhart filed for bankruptcy.

Goodhart announced last week he is closing his wrestling school and ending his long-running Philadelphia radio program, along with the Tri-States Wrestling Alliance.

Long considered, with Dennis Corraluzzo, one of the top two indie promoters of the U.S., Goodhart had apparently overextended expenses paying top dollar for leading independent stars in his Philly-based spectacles. MATWATCH was unsuccessful in contacting Goodhart.

Will Shoot 20/20 at Month's End Graham: "I'll Call For a Boycott"

Angered by comments from Titan Sports in last week's MATWATCH, former WWF champion Superstar Billy Graham says he'll call for a boycott of World Wrestling Federation merchandise and pay-per-view broadcasts.

In a 90-minute telephone conversation with MATWATCH Saturday night, Graham answered the response of Titan Sports spokesman Steve Planamenta to accusations against Titan and Hulk Hogan made by Graham and ex-wrestler David Shults.



In particular, Graham was miffed at Planamenta's comment: "Billy is upset because we called his bluff on the lawsuit (a threatened Graham legal action against Titan over his degenerative bone condition, allegedly from steroid use)." Said Graham: "If I was still trying to get an out-of-court settlement from them, I

wouldn't have been speaking out like I have. I would have kept it quiet. The bluff hasn't been called. It hasn't even been filed yet. My attorneys have told me Vince McMahon is the least of the players. (Convicted steroid distributor) Dr. (George T.) Zahorian and at least seven drug companies are much higher on the list."

Graham was further bothered by Planamenta's comment on alleged threats against the former champion and Shults. Planamenta told MATWATCH: "The part about fearing for his life, that we're going to have someone come after him. That he would think that highly of himself is both amazing and ludicrous."

"His trying to take this as light as he (Planamenta) can...maybe to him it's a laughable matter," said Graham. "He can take it with a grain of salt if he wants to but it's a much broader scope than this. I was approached by the FBI and U.S. attorney Theodore Smith to have my phone tapped or to go into Vince's office with a wire because they (federal authorities) were concerned about his connections. They suggested putting bodyguards on me even to go to John Arezzi's convention last summer in New York or to have one here at our home in California." At deadline, MATWATCH had been unable to reach attorney Smith's office but will attempt again this week. Planamenta has categorically denied any federal investigation is in progress into Titan Sports.

Graham told MATWATCH he will be interviewed for an upcoming ABC 20/20 story at the end of the month and plans to go further than in his recent appearance on *INSIDE EDITION*, including alleged cocaine and homosexual involvement in the wrestling industry. "There may be some other people in the woodwork who may want to step out and support us," said the retired competitor.

Further, Graham says he will call for a boycott of Titan's merchandising and pay-per-view cablecasts. "I may even tell people to stop watching the weekly shows. That's the only thing those people understand is in the pocketbook," said Graham. "It's deception at the highest level. It's a form of child abuse. I was hoping they (Hogan and McMahon) would make a public apology about the steroids, like Jimmy Swaggart did the first time. This country is a forgiving country. These people will take him (Hogan) back into their arms. But this was a company decision for Hulk to lie about his steroid-taking on *THE ARSENIO HALL SHOW*." Titan officials have called Graham's charges against Hogan "outrageous."

"That's tragic," says Graham. "But I thought what he said on *ARSENIO* could have been a career-ending statement. Not at the moment but long-term. It will be interesting to see how much distance the company puts between themselves and Terry Bollea (Hogan) if this thing gets too hot. I can't stand to see people, especially the children of this country, be deceived by somebody who's supposed to be their hero. All I want is for Terry to tell the truth."

MATWATCH

Page 5/Vol. 5, No. 3/Jan. 20-26

IDIOTS

Jan. 13-19

(WWF/SYN) - [SUPERSTARS]:

Randy Savage d. Barbarian; (UP-DATE) Gene Okerlund on Mountie winning I-C title after Bret Hart "wrestles w. 104-degree temperature in Springfield MA & says Roddy Piper attacked w. belt trying save; Virgil d. Dalton; Nasty Boys d. Robert Taylor/Dale Wolfe; (SEG) Okerlund w. Hulk Hogan; Berzerker d. Scott Balzo by countout; (CHALLENGE) Sean Michaels throws Marty Jannetty through plate glass window; (ROYAL RUMBLE REPORT) Gene Okerlund announces Jannetty out of RUMBLE; Jake Roberts d. Spencer. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[CHALLENGE]: {OPEN} Gorilla Monsoon on I-C title situation; Savage d. Hercules; (SPECIAL REPORT) Al Hayes says Hart has to withdraw from ROYAL RUMBLE and Jack Tunney orders Piper-Mountie I-C title match at RUMBLE with Piper getting chance to win both I-C & world titles; Davey Boy Smith d. Dusty Daze; (RERUN) Ric Flair d. Larry Ludden; (SEG) Okerlund w. Hogan; Legion of Doom d. Brian Costello/Buddy Roemer; (REPLAY) Michaels throws Jannetty through window; (ROYAL RUMBLE REPORT) Same as SOW; Nasty Boys d. Larry Sampson/Bobby Jones. Nasties pound on heels after. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WCW/SYN) - [WCW PRO]: Young Pistols d. Patriots w. trunks; Big Josh d. Curtis Hughes by DQ when Big Van Vader runs in & clotheslines Josh from behind. Steiners save; Cactus Jack d. El Gigante by DQ when El won't release claw while Cactus is on ring apron. El casts aside everyone until Abdullah the Butcher runs in but kendo stick doesn't faze El, who gets stick away & cleans house w. Cactus/Abdullah. Cactus thinks Abby used stick & the 2 start brawl into aisle; (WNN) Gordon Solie w. Harley Race on Lex Luger winning WCW MAGAZINE Wrestler of Year award, (TOKYO DOME) El vs. Vader, Arn Anderson/Bobby Eaton winning WCW world tag title; P.N. News d. Doug Taylor; (6-MAN) Steve Austin/Rick Rude/Eaton d. Sting/Marcus A. Bagwell/Ricky Steamboat when Eaton comes off top on Bagwell & Austin plns. Alliance bash Bagwell w. chair until Sting gets it away from Rude & heels flee. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

[WORLD WIDE]: Ron Simmons d. Chris Sullivan; Sting d. Chuck Coates; Steiners d. Cactus/Abdullah the Butcher when Abby accidentally hits Cactus w. kendo stick. The 2 brawl again; (WNN) Same as PRO; Rude d. Bagwell. Rick keeps giving Mark Rude Awakening until Sting saves; (WCW TV TITLE) Austin draw vs. Steamboat but Madusa/Steve try to double after on Ricky, who rallies & chases both. POWERSLAM.

(GLOBAL/SYN) - [MAJOR LEAGUE]: {NORTH AMERICAN TITLE} Patriot d. Scott Anthony 2-3 falls when Anthony piledrives referee in 3rd fall. Dark Patriot runs in & squirts ink in Patriot's eyes, "blinding" him. Later, it's discovered a \$10,000 bounty poster is in dressing room on Patriot; (GWF TODAY) Joe Pedicino previews tag title match; (NOTHING BUT DeTRUTH) Steve Prazak insults Wild Bunch as "old and in the way;" (EDITORIAL REPLY) Scott Hudson announces Point/Counterpoint starts next week w. DeTruth; {GLOBAL TAG TITLE/BUNKHOUSE BRAWL} Bill Irwin/Black Bart d. John Tatum/Rod Price 2-3 falls to win belts when Irwin use horseshoe on Price in 3rd fall. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(USWA/WMC) - [KENNETT, MO] Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller vs. Moondogs erupts into bizarre brawl when Richard Lee bashes Fuller w. metal garbage can. Jerry Lawler runs in & 11-minute melee starts which goes into concession area & lobby of American Legion hall. Broomsticks, drink crates, icemakers and Coke bottles used; Robert Fuller d. J.R. Alzado; Moondogs d. Tom Hayes/Ricky Hutchings & bash them w. chairs after

until Eddie Marlin stops it; (ANGLE) Eric Embry/Tony Falk challenges anyone to come wrestle them. Tony Anthony/Tom Prichard show up w. straps & chase them while Ms. Texas/C.J. brawl. 5-minute melee erupts; (SEG) Dennis Coralluzzo says he now represents Kimala & the estate of Andy Kaufman; (MID-SOUTH COLISEUM/USWA TAG TITLE/NO DQ) Moondogs d. Fuller/Jarrett; Lawler/Jarrett d. Leatherface/Domino & deck Nate the Rat after. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(NEW PWTW) - [GA/1989] The Bullet d. Tommy Rich by DQ; (GLOBAL) Sam Houston d. Bull Pain; (CLASSIC/WCCW) Samoan Swat Team d. Steve Cox/Bill Irwin; (LPWA) Lelani Kai d. Malaya Hosaka; (S. ATL.) Patriot d. Mike Starr; (GLOBAL/CAGE) Terry Garvin/Tug Taylor d. Davis Bros. RESTHOLD.

(SOUTH ATLANTIC) - Patriot d. Grappler; Tommy Angel/Greg Bobchick d. Vince Terrell/Roughhouse Graham; Jeff Collette d. Johnny DelRio; Wahoo McDaniel d. Helmut Hessler by DQ. RESTHOLD.

(IWCCW) - [RERUN] Tazmaniac d. Ray Oddysey; Koko B. Ware d. Cannonball; Tony Atlas d. Dusty Wolfe. NO RATING.

(LPWA) - [3RD RERUN]: Reggie Bennett d. Susan Sexton by DQ for over-top; Magnificent Mimi d. LaGata; Judy Martin/Lelani Kai d. Alma Alvarez/Beast but after Wally Karbo separates Glamour Girls/Chris Love from Bad, Black & Beautiful; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Jim Cornette w. Ashley Kennedy/Lady X; Misty Blue Simmes/Allison Royal d. Candi Divine/Rusty Thomas; Bambi/Malaya Hosaka d. Nasty Girls; (SEG) Madusa Miceli says she'll do what she wants to. NO RATING.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - [2 Wks. Ago]: {CLIP} Brick Casas/El Arcangel de la Muerte vs. La Mascara/El Guerrero Samurá II; (WOMEN) La Pantera Suena/La Guerrera Fúrpura/Martha Villalobos d. Vicky Carranza/Lady Apache/Cynthia Moreno 2-3 falls; Oro/Plata/Platino d. El Supremo I/El Médico Asesino Jr./El Hombre Bala 2 straight; Juan Sevilla/El Volador/El Misterioso d. Fuerza Guerrera/Kung Fu/M.S. 12-3; Black Magic/El Dandy/Konnán el Bárbaro d. Jaque Mate/Masakre/Pierroth Jr. BOMB-PLUS.

[Last Week]: El Guerrero Negro/El Arcangel de la Muerte/El Guerrero de la Muerte d. El Pantera II/Ciclón Ramírez/La Aguila Solitaria 2-3; Mager/El Cachorra Mendoza/Ringo Mendoza d. Gargola el Sultan/El Hombre Bala/Kung Fu 2-3; Blue Panther/Fuerza Guerrera/Emilio Charles Jr. d. El Misterioso/Blue Demon Jr./El Volador 2 straight; El Brazo/El Brazo de Plata/El Brazo de Oro d. Mate/Masakre/Pierroth Jr. 2-3. DRAW-PLUS.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: {WCW TV TITLE} Austin d. Mike Graham to retain belt; Steiners d. Jack Savage/Don Michaels; Simmons d. Medic; Rude d. Butch Malone; (MISSY DOES MAIL/WCW TV TITLE) Austin draw vs. Bagwell. Alliance jumps Bagwell until Sting saves, plus last week's Cactus/Abby WCW brawl; Steamboat d. Thomas Rich. RESTHOLD. [WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Rude d. Dave Diamond; Cactus/Abdullah d. Tom Zenk/Brad Armstrong. Zenk & Cactus brawl outside after but Abby punches & chairs Cactus & the 2 brawl to the hall-way; (WCW MAGAZINE) Eric Bischoff w. Race on Luger, Paul E. Dangerously on tag title change; Terry Taylor d. Joey Maggs; Van Hammer d. Coates; Hughes d. P.N.N. when Vader distracts & Curtis clotheslines from behind. Steiners save; Eaton/Austin d. Sting/Bagwell when Paul E. trips Mark. Sting puts sleeper on Paul E. outside. Alliance hits ring, holds Sting while Paul E. whips

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See.
PILED RIVER - Excellent. POW-
ERSLAM - Good. DRAW -
Average. RESTHOLD - Fair.
BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale
rating.

MATWATCH

Page 6/Vol. 5, No. 3/Jan. 20-26

Bagwell but Simmons/Dustin Rhodes/Steamboat save. **DRAW.** [MAIN EVENT]: Steiners d. Coates/Zan Panzer; (WCW MAG) Same as WCW; (WCW TV TITLE) Austin d. Todd Champion to retain belt. Eaton doubles on Todd after but Steamboat saves; (ROSS REPORT) Jim w. Cactus; Simmons d. Cactus by DQ when Abby runs in & brawls w. Cactus. **DRAW.**

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Davey Boy Smith d. Warlord; (BARBER SHOP) Michaels-Jannetty plate glass angle; Sgt. Slaughter/Jim Duggan d. Jesse Hernandez/Horowitz; (UPDATE) Okerlund on Sid Justice; Bushwhackers d. Executioners; Roberts d. Ludden; (R.R. REPORT) Contestants' hype; Kerry Von Erich d. Rick Martel by DQ when Rick sprays Arrogance in Kerry's face; L.O.D. d. Costello/Roemer; (FUNERAL PARLOR) Paul Bearer w. Flair/Curt Hennig; Tito Santana d. Col. Mustafa; Greg Valentine d. Kato; (FEATURE) Chris Chavis w. tribe; I.R. Schyster d. Taylor. **DRAW.**

(GLOBAL/ESPN) - [Tue.]: {REPLAY} Chaz d. Lightning Kid by DQ when Jerry Lynn tells ref Kid threw salt in Chaz's face. Kid attacks Lynn, who rallies & puts Kid to sleep; (GLOBAL TV TITLE) Fans search Eddie Gilbert & find objects in elbow pad, shoes & trunks. Gilbert d. Terry Garvin 2-3 falls to retain belt when Eddie burns Garvin in 3rd fall; (GWF TODAY) Pedicino previews Lynn-Kid match; (NOTHING BUT DeTRUTH) DeTruth on Barry Horowitz; (ED. REPLY) Hudson says he'll be editorialist to counter DeTruth; (GLOBAL LT. HWT. TITLE) Lynn d. Kid to win belt when Lynn ducks Scott Anthony leap off top w. chain & Scotty belts kid. Scotty hits Kid 2nd time & Lynn uses sleeper in 3rd fall. **POWERSLAM-PLUS.** [Wed.]: Garvin d. Gilbert; Dark Patriot d. Chris Michaels; Lynn d. Ben Jordan; Scott Putski d. Steve Dane; Gilbert d. Michaels; (POLE MATCH) Tug Taylor d. Mike Davis. **RESTHOLD.** [Thu.]: Gilbert d. Steve Cox; Makhan Singh d. Jeff Gaylord; Chaz d. Horowitz; Renegade Warriors d. Maulers by DQ for decking ref; (GLOBAL LT. HWT. TITLE) Lightning Kid d. Garvin to retain belt by holding rope; (HANDICAP) Paul Bunyan d. Ed Robinson/El Diablo; Tatum d. Barry Usher. **RESTHOLD-PLUS.**

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Craig Johnson, MLW, on Wild Bunch: "I've never seen anyone bring saddlebags to the ring filled with items you don't see on **THE PRICE IS RIGHT.**" 2. Roddy Piper, ROYAL RUMBLE: "They say, 'I'm gonna take Piper's integrity.' That's like Jacques Cousteau trying to find a dry spot in the ocean. I ain't got no integrity." 3. Bobby Heenan, RR: "Jameson's mother and father never got a divorce. Nobody wanted custody of that boy." 4. Heenan, RR: "Jameson used to come home every day to see if his parents had moved. They used to wrap his lunch in a road map." 5. Heenan, RR: "Jameson wears all designer clothes. Marquis DeSlum of Newark." 6. Heenan, RR, on Jack Tunney: "He's been the best President since Noriega." 7. Steven DeTruth, MLW, on Wild Bunch: "They're gonna petition the Barcelona office for permission to bring things to the ring---like toupees, walkers and don't forget dribble buckets." 8. Cactus Jack, PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT, on winning **MAT-WATCH Man of the Year** and **Bruiser Brody Award**: "This is kinda like **This Is Your Life: Cactus Jack.**" 9. Jim Ross, WCW: "Dangerously's not even a good role model for the spoiled rich kids who watch our show." 10. Ross, WCW, on Paul E.: "That guy has no heart....and very darn little hair." 11. Joe Pedicino/Jim Cornette, LPWA: (JP) "The Queen looks like a cross between Roseanne Barr and Tammy Faye Bakker." (JC) "Oh, come off it, Joe, you're just trying to get a

LINE OF THE WEEK. 12. Pedicino/Cornette, LPWA: (JP) "She punches Judy Martin into Tomorrowland. Now, she goes into Fantasyland." (JC) "Now you're talking like you've lived at Disney World all of your life." 13. Cornette, LPWA: "The jewelry was sold to The Queen at a seduced rate." 14. Bruce Prichard, MLW: "The Wild Bunch didn't get its name spending time lying on beaches." 15. Jerry Lawler, WMC, on Moondogs: "The kings have ruled the countries and the dogs will lay at their feet." 16. Cornette, LPWA, on Team America I: "They're about as exciting as a malcure. They're as exciting as watching a senior citizen wrinkle." 17. Ross, WCW: "Perhaps Cactus and Abdullah should check out 'The Fine Art of Communicat-ing' at their local library." 18. Ross, WCW, on Cactus/Abby: "I need an interpreter. I don't speak Sudanese...or bang-bang, for that matter." 19. Dennis Coralluzzo, WMC, on Kimala: "He's only concerned about how many raw chickens he's gonna eat this week." 20. Robert Fuller, WMC, on Richard Lee: "You started the dance, you gotta finish the song."

21. Larry Zbyszko, PH: "The world is becoming a real small place. Frankly, I'm surprised we're all still living." 22. Missy Hyatt, PH: "Stunning, beautiful. Sounds like a description of ...me." 23. Curt Hennig, SOW: "A couple of those dirty toes of Knobbs' in your mouth, McMahon. I'd love to see that." 24. Heenan, PTW, on Slick's buying Jamieson a suit: "You mean you're gonna take him to where you buy clothes? You mean that van's gonna drive up and both doors open out?" 25. Scott Hudson, ESPN, on Gilbert/Tatum: "I think they're singing off the same sheet now." 26. Gilbert, ESPN, on Wahoo McDaniel: "O! Wahoo. I went to see him the other day in the nursing home." 27. Gilbert, ESPN, on Wahoo: "It's amazing the Renegade Warriors could understand what he told them. He has dentures now and sometimes has to take them out to talk."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Ric Flair, RR, on winning WWF belt: "This is the greatest moment in my life." 2. Flair, RR: "This is the only title in the world that makes you king of the wrestling world!"

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Paul E., PH: "Who wants Sting?" 2. Heenan, PTW, to Gorilla Monsoon on Slick: "Talk about ripe for picking, why don't you pick that purple grape sitting next to you?" 4. Gilbert, ESPN: "Did you know John Tatum is the one who taught Elvis karate tactics?" 5. Okerlund, RR, to Jameson: "Do you have Mr. Blackwell's telephone number?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. OLD & IN THE WAY (DeTruth on Wild Bunch). 2. THE DANCING MAITRE'D (Jim Ross on Rick Rude). 3. MUCUS (Missy on Marcus Bagwell). 4. WCW'S VERSION OF THE ADDAMS FAMILY (Missy on Cactus/Abdullah). 5. OZZIE (Missy on Tony Schiavone).

BEST PICTURES - 1. WMC, Kennett MO brawl between Jarrett/Lawler & Moondogs. 2. MLW, Bill Irwin going for horseshoe. 3. MLW, Akbar choking Irwin. 4. PRO, Cactus/Abdullah brawl. 5. PRO, Gary Cappetta having to roll out of the way of Cactus/Abdullah. 6. WCW, Cactus/Abby brawl. 7. PH, Alexandra York telling Rich, "You need this, Thomas, trust me, you need this." 8. WCW, Paul E. covering camera lens. 9. WCW, Sting putting sleeper on Paul E. 10. ESPN, Lightning Kid's 360-degree flip over top onto Garvin.

ENGLISH LESSONS - 1. Gilbert, ESPN: "Anywhere I've WENT and wrestled...." 2. Jameson, RR: "He HITTED me."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Monsoon, WC: "...history will be made." 2. Koko B. Ware, WMC: "...the bigger they are, the
(Continued on Page 8)

MATWATCH

Page 7/Vol. 5, No. 3/Jan. 20-26

MATWATCHING

THE CHANGE: It was a 24-degree night in Jacksonville for the 2-out-of-3 fall WCW world tag title change. Arn Anderson and Bobby Eaton won when---as a brawl was erupting outside with Barry Windham and Larry Zbyszko and Madusa Miceli and Bobby Eaton working over Ricky Steamboat, Arn grabbed Paul E.'s phone & bashed Dustin Rhodes with it.

ALSO IN JAX: A crowd of 3,052 (\$26,500) watched the ol' Dusty finish return. Sting d. Rick Rude when a second ref came to count the fall for the U.S. title. But the groggy ref revived to Sting tossed Rude over the top. It has to end!

BACK IN THREE: WCW returns to Jacksonville in three weeks with Sting/Steamboat/Rhodes vs. Rude/Anderson/Eaton on top but the crowd wasn't told the main event.

LAST WEEK IN COLUMBUS: The first quarterly Paullie Awards were presented (naturally, all to members of the Dangerous Alliance). All of this airs the first week in February in syndication.

YOU HERD IT RIGHT: At one point during an interview, Paul E. says, "I herd....ahem....there was a seat open on the WCW board of directors."

KIP'S INTRO: New WCW chief Kip Frye (age 32, not 36 as we reported last week) received a positive reception at his introduction to the troupe in Columbus. From what we've been told, the front office is about as relaxed and congenial as it's been since Turner owned the company.

MEDIA MEET: Kip met with reporters for the first time Wednesday morning in Kansas City. We had an invite to go but passed when the cheapest round-trip ticket we could commandeer was \$608.

NO LEFT TURN: Smarter heads are prevailing and the talked-about quick turn back to heel for Barry Windham is being indefinitely postponed.

RECOVERING: WCW's Jim Barnett laid up after falling and breaking a humerus bone last week.

ON TO NATPE: The big three groups have booths at the National Association of Television Program Executives convention in New Orleans this week. Hulk Hogan is appearing for the WWF, along with other Titan stars. El Gigante and Madusa Miceli were at the Turner booth. Eddie Gilbert joined Joe Pedicino and Boni Blackstone for Global and Andrews Entertainment.

FOXY HOUR: The revived *SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT* Feb. 8 on Fox will be in a one-hour slot after *COPS*.

PREACHING THIS WEEK: On the WWF Dallas show, a hard-sell spot is on every week, plugging "Rev. Slick" and his weekly sermon at a local church on Sunday.

FULLY SPONSORED: John Arezzi's early success with *PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT* on 50,000-watt WEVD-AM has brought five sponsors to the show, covering the production costs.

DOUBLE DARE: Friday night in Dallas, Eddie Gilbert and Terry Garvin scored a double pin in a two-referee match,

so the Global TV title is held up.

OTHER GLOBAL GOINGS: Also Friday, Chaz d. Steven Dane; Bull Pain d. Tug Taylor; Dark Patriot (Doug Gilbert) d. Gary Young; John Tatum/Rod Price d. Garvin/Jerry Lynn; Black Bart d. Bill Irwin; and in a "coward waves flag" match, Bull Pain d. Sam Houston.

THE PLAIN BULL: In that "coward" match, Sam didn't really wave the flag. Samantha Pain coldcocked Baby Doll (Nicola Smith) and ducked below the apron where only her blonde hair was showing. She surrendered for Sam.

THE SUB HOST: Bruce Prichard handled play-by-play chores for the Global tapings Friday night as Craig Johnson had a Major Indoor Lacrosse League date. Freddie Fargo and Gilbert shared the color chores.

FUTURE OPPONENTS: Expect The Blazers, who held the Georgia tag titles last year, to make some Global dates. Plus, the likely successors to Tatum and Price as tag champs will be Terry Garvin and Scott Putski.

IN TWO WEEKS: Eddie Mansfield's IWF resumes taping Feb. 1 at Universal Studios. Eddie had a full house at a small arena in Winter Haven FL two weeks ago. And some of his houses are jumping into the lower 200s and 300s.

FRIDAY IN MISSOURI: If you're a fan of the old-time Memphis brawls, you definitely want to get a tape of last weekend's WMC-TV USWA show. The show opened with an 11-minute melee from Kennett MO last Friday, in which Jeff Jarrett and Jerry Lawler brawled with the Moondogs into the concession stands, into the lobby, using broomhandles, sticks, chairs, Coke bottles, an icemaker from a refrigerator, etc. It was like Eddie Gilbert's legendary UWF Battle of New Orleans. A must see!

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Lawler and Jarrett took on the Moondogs in a grudge battle and Kimala defended the USWA belt against Koko B. Ware.

ALSO MONDAY: The rest of the card featured Robert Fuller vs. Moondog manager Richard Lee; a mixed match with Tom Prichard/Ms. Texas vs. Tony Falk/C.J.; Eric Embry defending the Southern title vs. Bart Sawyer; and in the opener, Doug Masters vs. Tony Anthony. An added bout was a strap battle royal with the folks in the latter three matches.

A PERMANENT MOVE?: Talk is building that Jerry Jarrett may take the bold step of moving the Mid-South Coliseum to regular Saturdays. He has another Saturday date in February and after a major jump in the gate on New Year's week on a Saturday, it makes sense.

AT THE MOVIES: The *UP ALL NIGHT* flicks hosted by Gene Okerlund and Bobby Heenan Jan. 10 fared rather well in the ratings. The first feature scored a 1.9/4.4 and the second, a 1.7/7.5. For the four hours, the Heenan-Okerlund team drew a 1.8/6, good for 1.04 million homes.

SUNCOAST SHORES: Henry Raines' *SUNCOAST PRO* group drew a 1/6 in the November Nielsens in Sarasota, ahead of the 0/1 for WCW, which follows SPW.

MEMPHIS MALAISE: But the USWA numbers, after the move to 10 a.m., are down. The Nielsens posted a 9/42 and the Arbitrons a 7/33 in November, well down from those halcyon days of 80 shares during the Lance Russell years.

MATWATCH

Page 8/Vol. 5, No. 3/Jan. 20-26

All Top 1 Million

RATINGS RAP

WCW BOUNCES BACK TO RATINGS TOP

After two weeks of tough Saturday NFL competition, **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING** has bounced back to take the top spot in the Nielsen cable ratings race for the week ending Jan. 13.

WCW scored a 3.0 rating and 5.9 per cent share of audience to sail past **PRIME TIME WRESTLING**. It was the 15th victory for a TBS wrestling show in 19 weeks.

PRIME TIME fell back from two straight victories to a 2.6/3.8 in finishing second. USA Network has recently dropped the late Wednesday night repeat showing of **PTW**.

But the football playoffs continue to take their Sunday toll on **WCW MAIN EVENT** and **WWF ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING**. Both series dropped to a 2.2 opposite the AFC and NFC championship games last week.

The Saturday morning **POWER HOUR** continued its resurgence. The 1.8 rating represented the third consecutive week drawing more than a million homes.

CABLE

Week Ending Jan. 13	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Year Ago
WCW World Champ. (TBS 1/11)	3.0/5.9	1.72 million	2.6/4.4
WWF Prime Time (USA 1/13)	2.6/3.8	1.50 million	2.7/4.0
WCW Main Event (TBS 1/12)	2.2/3.5	1.27 million	2.3/3.7
WWF All-American (USA 1/12)	2.2/4.7	1.27 million	2.1/4.7
WCW Power Hour (TBS 1/11)	1.8/7.4	1.03 million	1.7/6.3

VIDIOTS

(From Page 6)

harder they fall." 3. Hennig, SOW: "...all she wrote." 4. Hulk Hogan, WC: "...can't see the forest for the trees." 5. Okerlund, WC: "...history could be made." 6. Vince McMahon, SOW: "History will be made." 7. Monsoon, RR: "...more than one way to skin a cat."

WORST PICTURE - RR, Jameson blowing nose on dirty sock.

BLOOPER AWARD - Monsoon, RR, for calling Ric Flair "Rick Martel" at the 47-minute mark.

BOO AWARD - Eric Embry, WMC, for once again decking a woman during studio brawl Saturday.

FINAL MATWATCH RATES

If your mailing label reads **FINAL ISSUE**, it's almost that. Next week brings the last issue of **MATWATCH**. So, if your subscription expires this week, the cost of the final issue is \$1.25 (U.S./Canada) or \$3.00 (Overseas).

Any issue with the label **FINAL REMINDER** means you must pay for both this week and next week in order to get your final issue: \$2.50 (U.S./Canada), \$5.00 (Overseas).

Check, cash or money order to: **MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.**

1991 Annual

MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER

It's almost here. The 1991 annual, **MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER**, puts the finishing touch on four years of this publication.

The 100-page annual will feature an extensive profile of just-named 1991 **MATWATCH** Man of the Year Cactus Jack, along with our annual Wrestling Broadcasting System schedule, the top 15 TV news stories of 1991 and a book-length retrospective on the people and events which have made the most impact on us since our debut in 1988.

We will endeavor to let you in on stories and situations we often could not detail in past issues of **MATWATCH** and offer a constructive perspective for the future of the mat industry.

MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER will be published approximately Feb. 28.

Price: \$13 (U.S./Canada), \$21 (Overseas).

Check, cash or money order to: **MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.**

ONE MILE TO GO

Next week, the final regular issue of **MATWATCH** will feature coverage of this week's **CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS**, an interview with IWF's Eddie Mansfield, the latest on the Superstar Graham/Titan Sports joustings and a special word to **MATWATCHers** everywhere.

A closing note to Baltimore readers. Negotiations were underway last week to move **THE LARRY KATZ SHOW** to a new station and Larry is hopeful of an announcement the show will return to an unspecified station in February.

MATWATCH
16 ROBIN HOOD LANE
JACKSON TN 38305

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON TN
PERMIT NO. 50

David Skolnick
221 Stowe Ave. #A-1
Troy, NY 12180
1/27/92

FIRST CLASS MAIL